

PS

POWERSOURCE



from the **CEO**

Renewable generation is a major part of Santee Cooper's long-term commitment to environmental stewardship. Renewable power resources that make sense for our customers continue to be strategically added to the generation mix. Recently announced, our new Jamison Solar Farm in Orangeburg is already flowing power to the grid. And new purchase power agreements have been signed whereby Santee Cooper will buy the power from two 75-megawatt (MW) solar farms being built by third parties.

Santee Cooper has a strong history of environmental stewardship. In 2001, we were the first utility in the state to supply renewable electricity to customers, turning landfill methane gas into an energy source and thus taking it out of the atmosphere. In 2006, the first solar power to the state grid was produced by Santee Cooper. More firsts include: launching the state's first rooftop solar program in 2008; adding wood-waste biomass facilities to the state grid in 2013; providing power from the state's first utility-scale solar farm in 2014; and launching South Carolina's first community solar farm program in 2016. Community solar allows customers who cannot or do not want to put solar panels on their roofs the opportunity to subscribe to a portion of the solar farm's output.

Santee Cooper was also the first utility in the state to offer a Green Power program to customers, including the electric cooperatives' customers. Proceeds from Green Power sales are used to help build additional renewable generation. By 2015, we had already generated one million MW-hours of renewable Green Power from landfill gas, solar and wind resources.

The Green Power Solar Schools program for middle schools began in 2007, helping teach sixth graders the advantages and challenges of solar power with hands-on lesson plans and a 2-kilowatt solar array



at their schools. In partnership with the electric cooperatives, there are now 28 Solar Schools across the state.

Counting landfill gas generation, biomass, solar power and a demonstration wind project, Santee Cooper now has more than 250 MW of renewable power online or under contract.

Santee Cooper is committed to responding to customer demand by growing and expanding renewable energy production and a diverse energy supply. We're proud of that commitment and will continue to add renewable generation as we move together into a changing energy future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Brogdon".

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Santee Cooper Is Serious About Safety

by Mollie Gore

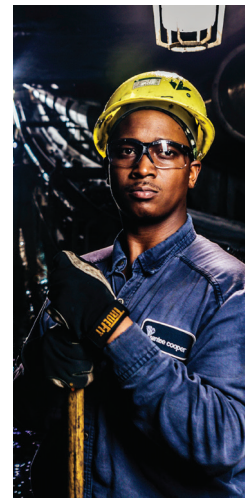
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Photo by Paul Zoeller

Jon-Paul Ramsing, Santee Cooper's supervisor of learning and development, walks near the flames of a controlled burn at the Berkeley County Emergency Management Training Facility in Moncks Corner. The two-story metal building is used for safety training. Along with other safety training, fire training is a high priority at Santee Cooper.




By Mollie Gore
Photography by Paul Zoeller

This page: Auxiliary operators from Cross Generating Station run through live-fire safety training drills at the Berkeley County Emergency Training Center in Moncks Corner. Opposite: Jon-Paul Ramsing, supervisor of learning and development, stokes the flames of a fire inside the training facility before the start of a training exercise.



serious about

A full-page background image showing a firefighter in silhouette, wearing a helmet and breathing apparatus, standing in front of a large, intense fire. The fire is bright orange and yellow, with thick smoke rising. The firefighter is holding a hose, and the scene is dramatically lit by the fire's glow.

At high noon on a sunny day in March, puffy white clouds dotted an otherwise bright blue sky. Suddenly, thick black smoke poured out of a two-story building. Just outside, the Cross Generating Station crew huddled briefly to finalize their plan to enter the building, fight the fire and rescue anyone trapped inside. They moved into the building and a few minutes later reemerged, the fire extinguished and the victim carried to safety.

Two weeks later, a different Santee Cooper crew pulled up to a flooded right of way and began staging equipment to replace two 60-foot transmission poles. They also huddled up and finalized their plan. Crew Supervisor Jason Griswold repeated the worksite address, in case they needed an ambulance. He gave directions to the nearest hospital, and said the address was already entered in the GPS in his truck. Tailgate safety briefing over, the crew began the slow trek through the water to begin their work.

The fire was a safety training exercise. The flooded transmission operation was an example of why Santee Cooper conducts safety trainings. On that March morning, five transmission crew members would climb 60-foot poles supporting 115-kilovolt power lines, maneuver vehicles to lift and place heavy barrels of gravel and other equipment, and replace the poles, all in water 2- or 3-feet deep.

safety



From top: Auxiliary operators train on a mobile, confined-space, rescue training trailer parked at the Cross Generating Station.

Murray Vernon, auxiliary operator III at Cross Generating Station, prepares to be lowered into a steel container to practice confined space rescue training.

Cross Generating Station auxiliary operators suit up before taking part in confined space rescue training.



Hundreds of Santee Cooper employees regularly work in places where danger lurks, in potentially hazardous environments doing jobs that are one careless move away from tragedy. Safety training and safe-work practices are their first line of defense.

All operations employees at Cross Generating Station go through the fire training every year, usually in the first quarter when they also practice rescuing victims from confined work spaces where oxygen can be scarce, and other hazardous duty training. There are all kinds of training exercises across Santee Cooper, some more general such as CPR and others more specific to work sites and functions. Santee Cooper's safety and training departments work closely to provide a comprehensive program that provides equipment and training that covers what is required – and then some.

Since coming to Santee Cooper in 2016, Occupational Safety Manager Jason Fugate has revamped a safety program that was already seeing good results. He has reorganized his group of safety specialists so that they each are responsible for certain areas in the company – entrenched in those departments to a degree.

“By embedding our safety specialists with the hazardous-duty crews, we are able to break down barriers and learn what the work is,” Fugate said. “That helps us better advise the crews, better recommend anything that can help them work more safely.”

Santee Cooper had the best year ever in terms of safety at work last year, so something is clicking. The company went four months without any safety incidents at all – no recordable incidents (RIs), no preventable motor vehicle accidents. We finished the year with zero lost-time incidents and just 10 RIs all year – a record low mark.

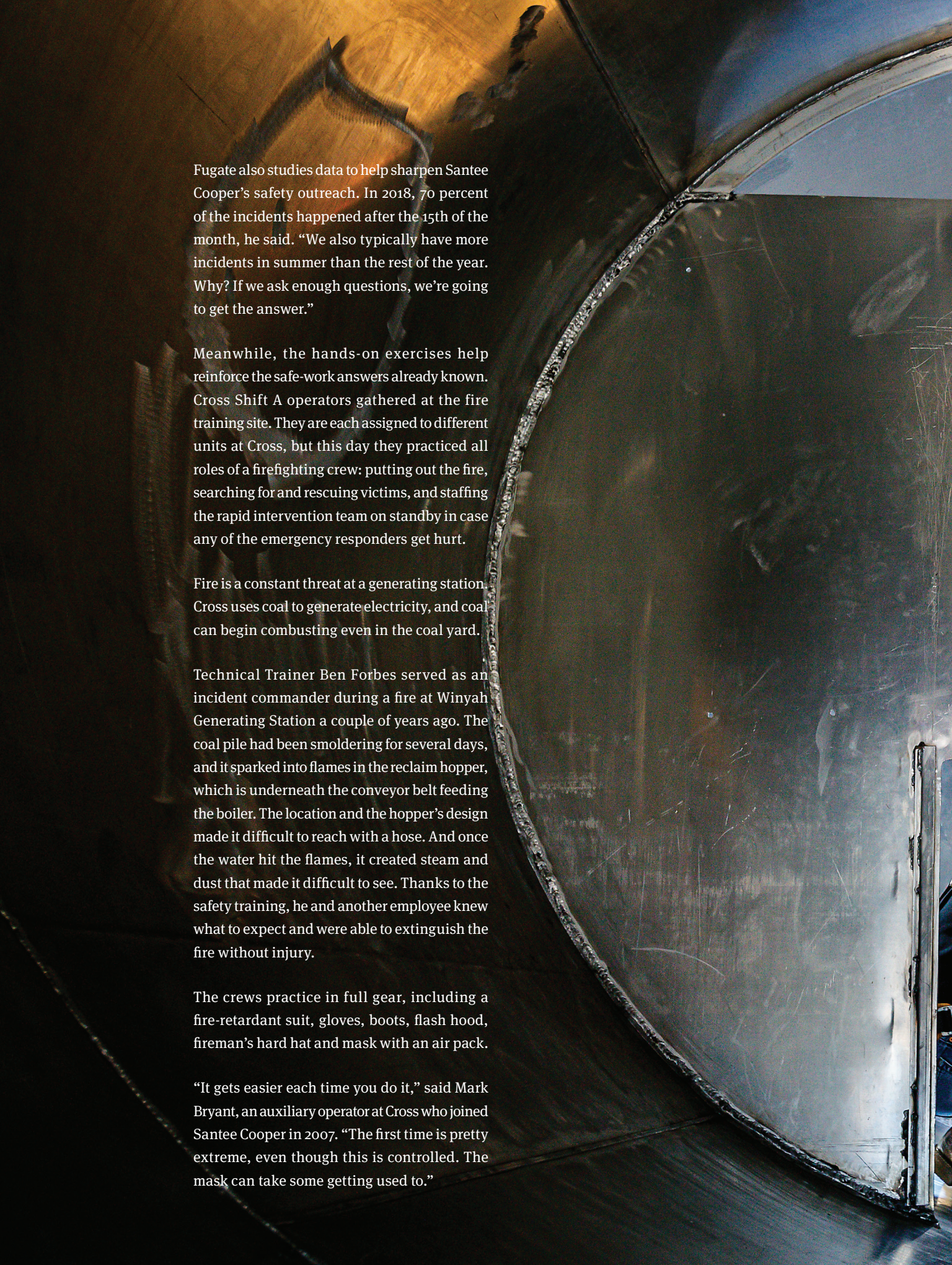
Santee Cooper's incident rate in 2018 was .58 per 100 employees, down from nearly 1.0 in



2016 and significantly lower than the national average of two per 100 employees. The safety performance was not just outstanding, it was best in the nation according to the American Public Power Association, which awarded Santee Cooper top honors among large utilities in the annual Safety Awards of Excellence.

“We’ve got a great team,” Fugate said. “And that team now includes the employees on the front lines. Everybody works well together.”

Above: Russell McElhaney, training consultant at Emergency Response Services Inc. (middle), works with Santee Cooper operators to secure a rescue dummy to be lifted out of a confined space training container.



Fugate also studies data to help sharpen Santee Cooper's safety outreach. In 2018, 70 percent of the incidents happened after the 15th of the month, he said. "We also typically have more incidents in summer than the rest of the year. Why? If we ask enough questions, we're going to get the answer."

Meanwhile, the hands-on exercises help reinforce the safe-work answers already known. Cross Shift A operators gathered at the fire training site. They are each assigned to different units at Cross, but this day they practiced all roles of a firefighting crew: putting out the fire, searching for and rescuing victims, and staffing the rapid intervention team on standby in case any of the emergency responders get hurt.

Fire is a constant threat at a generating station. Cross uses coal to generate electricity, and coal can begin combusting even in the coal yard.

Technical Trainer Ben Forbes served as an incident commander during a fire at Winyah Generating Station a couple of years ago. The coal pile had been smoldering for several days, and it sparked into flames in the reclaim hopper, which is underneath the conveyor belt feeding the boiler. The location and the hopper's design made it difficult to reach with a hose. And once the water hit the flames, it created steam and dust that made it difficult to see. Thanks to the safety training, he and another employee knew what to expect and were able to extinguish the fire without injury.

The crews practice in full gear, including a fire-retardant suit, gloves, boots, flash hood, fireman's hard hat and mask with an air pack.

"It gets easier each time you do it," said Mark Bryant, an auxiliary operator at Cross who joined Santee Cooper in 2007. "The first time is pretty extreme, even though this is controlled. The mask can take some getting used to."



Ryan Driggers, auxiliary operator at Cross Generating Station, works to free a rescue dummy, which simulates an unconscious coworker, during confined space rescue training.



From left: Russell McElhaney, training consultant at Emergency Response Services Inc. (third from right), gives instructions before the start of hazardous materials training exercises.

Auxiliary operators dressed in blue go through a wash down during training.

An auxiliary operator is scrubbed down to remove chocolate syrup, meant to simulate a hazardous chemical.

The training takes place at the Berkeley County Emergency Management Training Facility in Moncks Corner, inside a two-story metal building designed to take the heat. The fire is built inside a metal box, so it can be contained and still be a training tool. A few pieces of furniture inside reinforce the importance of crawling to the search-and-rescue squads.

“They moved the furniture in there each time,” said Unit Operator Tyrus Graham. One of the instructors told him it was good that he “knee-walked” through the building, so he didn’t trip.

One squad got confused about how many victims were in the building and started back in after their initial exit before the trainer called them back. Another time, the search and rescue team got the victim out through the back door but didn’t tell the others so they stayed in the building longer than necessary.

“These scenarios strengthen our communication, which is going to play a big role at the plant because it’s such a big site,” Graham said.

When asked how many of the Cross employees had used the fire safety training in a real-life

situation, about half raised their hands. At least two of them had rescued colleagues from life-threatening situations.

“This training pays off,” said Jon-Paul Ramsing, supervisor of learning and development. He noted that there were no first-timers at the daylong session. New hires at Santee Cooper have to complete a three-week training course that goes into more elementary instruction on the equipment and scenarios, and the daylong sessions are the annual refreshers.

For David Benenhaley, senior safety specialist, the changes in the safety department have helped him forge relationships with transmission crews and other areas under his watch. “Years ago, the only time safety came out was when something bad happened,” he said. “I try to go out with the hazardous duty crews at least two to three times a year.”

Benenhaley joined the Pinewood crew for the marsh operation, climbing into his own waders and helping carry ropes and tools from the vehicles to the guys doing the transmission pole replacement. He wants the crew to see him as a resource and friend.



Transmission Crew Supervisor Jason Griswold leads a team of four others out of the Pinewood crew quarters. He's proud of his (and his crew's) safety record: eight years without a recordable incident and four years without a preventable motor vehicle incident. Prior to the pole changeout, Griswold led a marsh-side safety briefing that included the jobsite address, the directions to the nearest hospital, location of AED and first aid kits, and a reminder to everyone to keep their personal protective equipment on throughout the duration of the job.

The crew was replacing old wooden poles on the Pinewood-to-Sandy Run line. Shane Riles and Chad Baker were on top of the poles for this day, although all crew members are trained to climb. Mike Kirby drove the Marsh Master back and forth to bring extra gravel and transfer tools to the others. Grayson Matthews operated the Flex Tracker, a large orange track-wheeled vehicle equipped with a crane to get equipment up to Riles and Baker. Griswold, as crew supervisor, kept an eye out for hazards and other issues. The work involved installing the new pole right beside the old one, transferring the line and then pulling the old pole down.

Kirby said he appreciates having Benenhaley so involved. "He gets a first-hand look at what's going on. He's not reacting just to what he's seen in a magazine or what he's been told. I feel like he's one of my friends looking out for me, and I still need to look out for him."

For Benenhaley, "The biggest thing is just trying to build a relationship. And if there is an incident and they start talking shop, then I know what they're talking about."

He paused ever so briefly and continued, "My job is to help them do their job better and safer, to be sure that they go home at night the same way they came to work."



Transmission crews out of Pinewood drive to a flooded location to replace old wooden transmission line structures.

David Benenhaley, senior safety specialist (inset, second from right), listens as transmission crews go through a safety briefing before replacing the wooden structures.



HOT ROD HIGH



SCHOOL



From go-carts to actual race cars, Motorsports Technology Instructor Keith Ferrell introduces new students to the vehicles they will work on in his class.

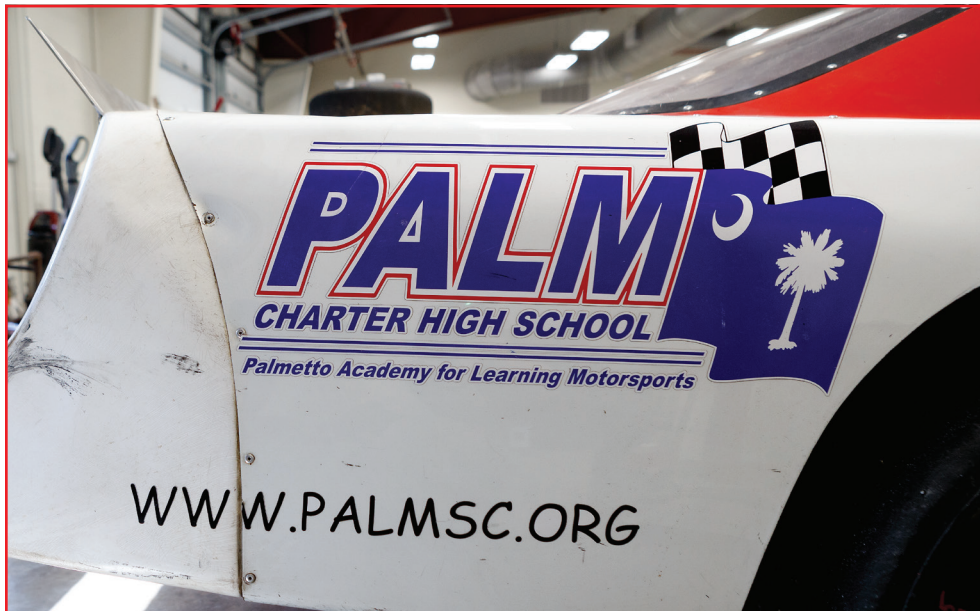
This page:
School colors
and logo adorn
a car's right-rear
quarter panel.

Opposite,
clockwise
from top left:
Sophomore
Christian Ward
helps strip old
parts off a car
to be restored
in collision
technology class.

Students split
their studies
between
automotive
classes and core
academic classes.

Welding is another
example of a
skill taught at the
school that can be
applied in many
workplaces apart
from a racing
environment.

Avery Moore,
shown here with
a damaged door
from the first
car the school
raced in 2018, is
the principal and
the driver for the
school's stock car
racing team.



Imagine attending a brand-new high school where a real Ford Taurus race car, with NASCAR legend Richard Petty's signature affixed above the doors, is on permanent display in the lobby.

And further imagine that you take courses just like a regular high schooler during part of the school day, and the other part of the day you study auto mechanics, welding or learn how to prepare a go-cart or race car for the racetrack. In Horry County, such a school does indeed exist for students in the ninth through 12th grades.

Welcome to PALM, the Palmetto Academy for Learning Motorsports. This unique educational option serves vocationally and mechanically inclined high school students. Located in Conway, PALM is a charter school, meaning it is independent of Horry County Schools and governed by its own board.

This past January, PALM moved from the Carolina Forest area on U.S. Highway 501 between Myrtle Beach and Conway to an impressive \$5 million building at 826 West Cox Ferry Road. PALM had operated at Carolina Forest for seven years. Today, PALM's 30,000 square-foot facility is the result of a project that had been under construction since October 2017.

Avery Moore is the principal at PALM. He presides over 155 students ranging in ages from 13 to 18. There are 11 instructors on the academic side teaching math, English and typical high school subjects, while four on the vocational side teach motorsports technology, auto-collision



Opposite, from top: Sophomore Mistidawn Jewell takes a spin in the school's race simulator. Students gather for lunch in a cafeteria filled with race cars.

technology, welding technology and graphics. He has an overall philosophy on how he views his students and the school's mission.

"The key is overall exposure. We want to expose students to the real elements of their careers," Moore said.

A student balances book learning with hands-on experience and graduates with a valid South Carolina high school diploma. Moore and PALM Vocational Director Ron Miller know that not all graduates will join the relatively small workforce comprising professional racing such as NASCAR, drag racing or other motorsports.

What they can come away with are the skills and credentials for a job market brimming with unfilled positions that offer many opportunities for a well-paid career.

"I get the car dealerships calling me all the time for qualified technicians," said Miller, one of PALM's founders. "There is a real shortage in this country. A young person committed to working on cars and who is good at it will make a really good living."

Another tool in PALM's curriculum toolbox is welding, taught by Don Howard. He spent 22 years in Pennsylvania practicing his trade before coming south. There are 20 welding booths at PALM that introduce students to a craft that is also in high demand in the Southeast. A bustling economy in the construction trades is fueling demand outside of the motorsport world.

"It's a great time to learn to be a welder," Howard said. "I'm setting us up here to be as close to a real welding shop as I can. A qualified welder today can easily make a good-paying job."

But it is racing, racetracks and driving race cars that really form the core of PALM's existence.

In fact, Moore proudly stated that he is "the only NASCAR racing principal in the nation." He regularly races at Myrtle Beach Speedway with seven to eight PALM students making up his pit crew. So naturally, Moore and others associated with PALM are drawn to and foster their working relationship with the speedway, a NASCAR-affiliated track. Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, the one-half mile paved track hosts NASCAR's Whelen All-American Series and other racing series during the year.

"We are fortunate to have them so close," Moore said. "It's a great asset for what we are trying to do here." PALM also routinely collaborates with Horry Georgetown Technical College's Conway campus.

Mistidawn Jewell is a 10th grader at PALM. An Aynor native, she has had a racetrack upbringing that whetted her appetite for pursuing what the school has to offer.

"My dad races at Myrtle Beach Speedway," she said proudly. "I've always wanted to be in motorsports. I love watching the cars go around."

Jewell has done more than watch. She has raced go-carts at Southern Kartway in nearby Loris and is very familiar with Lake View Speedway located in Dillon County, a one-half mile dirt track.

"I want to race," she said. "I love to race. I love the thrill of racing."

The 15-year-old has a clear vision of her future after graduating from PALM. She plans on attending Horry Georgetown Technical College in Conway for two years to study welding and then enrolling at the University of Northwestern Ohio, located in Lima. In the meantime, she'll continue studying and following NASCAR along with her family.



Student Driver







Opposite, from top:
Junior Tyler Koon checks the smoothness of the surface he is sanding during collision technology class.

Wire brushes are used in welding class at PALM. A Hoosier tire is one of the two top brands of tires found on racetracks throughout the country. An arsenal of clamps comes in handy around a race shop.

Junior Tommy Bauter files metal tubing he cut in Motorsports Technology class.

A race car sits in the foreground as students learn about creating logos in a graphic design class.

This page: Ron Miller is PALM's founder and a regular visitor to the Conway campus. "He has pioneered a new approach to public education that will affect generations to come," said Principal Avery Moore.

"We're Denny Hamlin fans," she said. "I also like Kyle Busch. We go to Darlington (Raceway) pretty much every year. I love it there."

Busch visited PALM last August, cutting the ribbon that officially kicked off their new digs. A Monster Energy Cup Series racer such as Busch created a lot of media buzz in Conway and drew much positive publicity.

"Kyle Busch is one of the top if not the top driver in NASCAR right now," said Moore. "To have him come and be a part of what we're trying to do here had a very big impact on advancing our school."

Busch recently recorded his 200th victory in NASCAR, equaling Richard Petty's record. Also attending the ribbon cutting was Darlington Raceway President Kerry Tharp, who participated in a Q&A session with those in attendance.

Jewell's in the minority at PALM, with female students comprising only 8 percent of the student population. Moore, Miller and others want to

change that, and they also want to change misconceptions that typically are placed upon high schools like PALM that veer from the norm.

"The most common misconception is that we're not a real or regular high school," said Moore. "Another one is that we only deal with kids who have been in trouble."

Both are not true. It is true, however, that PALM offers students and their families a choice to find a path forward that a mainstream high school may not be able to offer. PALM is an example that there are options in education.

Moore said the goal is to increase enrollment to around 200. With an impressive place to promote, it looks like PALM has a green flag future.

"We take kids who might not know what they want to do in life," Miller said. "We plant the seed. They gain confidence and for example, after taking welding may say to themselves, 'Hey, I can do this.' Sometimes, that's all it takes."

By Tracy Vreeland



Fishing on the Lake



Photography by Paul Zoeller



The sky is painted navy blue with faint pinks and oranges as the water gently taps the banks of Lake Moultrie. Fifteen men are waiting patiently for the sun to come up enough for them to hit the water.

It's a friendly competition. Sort of.

The men, ranging from 19 years old to 74, are part of the Lowcountry Bassmasters. It's one of countless clubs that competes with their catches on lakes Moultrie and Marion. On this day in February, they spent nine hours trying to hook the biggest catch. Techniques and position are taken seriously. The anglers are considering the temperature of the air, the position of the sun, and anything else that would determine where those bass are hiding.

From left: Chris Jackson, Andrew Marchbanks, Dayquan Telley and Hunter Marchbanks hold up their catches, which includes a 60-pound catfish, during the Monster Cat Quest.

Opposite, clockwise from top left: A catfish is released after its weigh-in is recorded. Anglers unload their catch for weigh-in after a day on the water. Fishing along the banks of Lake Moultrie. Anglers leave at the crack of dawn to find their favorite fishing spots. Allan Stack uses a GPS chart plotter/fish finder while fishing to help him keep track of his favorite locations.

“This time of the year, the fish are going to be holding on to a lot of structure, a lot of wood, a lot of rocks because that’s the first thing to get heated up by the sun. They also aren’t going to be super shallow right now as opposed to the spring time – that’s when the fish spawn. They’ll move up to shallow, make their beds and move back to deeper water,” said Allan Stack.

Stack knows what he is talking about. He fished competitively for Clemson University.

“I started when I was younger with my dad and kind of grew a passion for it. I started tournament fishing, I think when I was 14, and it kind of took off from there. I fished out of the back of my dad’s boat against him and won a couple of times, and he got

tired of that. So for high school graduation, he and my mom got me a boat so I can fish by myself,” said Stack.

He’s on the younger side of his fishing club, but still has the knowledge.

“I usually have 15, 20 rods sprawled across the deck with different lures on them. You can target different ranges, different depths.

You can have a moving bait. This time of the year, you want to have a lot of moving bait. It just depends on wind, sun, kind of cloudy, I mean anything will determine where you need to fish, what areas of the lake, what depths, lures, where you want to throw,” he explained.

He has the knowledge, but not necessarily the time to practice.

“Some of those older guys have all day to fish,” Stack joked.

Competitions range from their friendly club to major tournaments. Fishing is good on the lakes.

In fact, the Santee Cooper Lakes, as they’re called, have consistently been in the Top 100 bass fishing lakes recognized annually by Bassmaster magazine. They shot from No. 48 in 2013 all the way to No. 2 in 2016. In 2018, they took the No. 8 spot.

“The Santee Cooper Lakes are famous. They’ve always been famous for fishing,”

“Some of those older guys have all day to fish.”
Allan Stack





Reesha Little-Oakley traveled from Kentucky to compete in the Monster Cat Quest tournament. Little-Oakley pulls the catfish she caught from a live well for weigh-in.

“The thing about these lakes, there’s something always biting.” Ken Davis

said Steve English. He’s a fishing guide who started his profession at age 17 in 1975. “Been doing it professionally for 15 years. But in 1975, you didn’t need a license. You just needed to know how to fish.”

Fishing runs in the family. English’s grandfather was a guide in Florida and a charter member of the Bass Angler Society of America. His father bought the Canal Lakes Resort and was a guide on the Santee Cooper Lakes, and now his son is following in their footsteps. “I guess we don’t know how to do anything else,” he said.

Generally, English will take his anglers out for a seven- or eight-hour trip. “We get a lot of ladies out here. We can find restaurants, make pit stops,” he said. His customers come from all over the globe, with some returning visitors from Ireland.

“Very few lakes can support a guide’s life and it’s all because of the reputation and fishing,” English said. “A lot of lakes you may be able to catch more fish. But here, you catch the big fish. I fish for crappie, bluegill, shellcracker. The people I take out say one of two things, ‘that’s the biggest crappie I ever caught or that’s the biggest crappie I’ve ever seen!’”

The reason the fishing is so good has to do with how the lakes were formed. During the Great Depression, thousands of acres of swamp and forest were excavated to create the lakes in order to build Santee Cooper’s hydro power plant. It put people to work and provided power for people in the most rural parts of the state. Most of the timber from Lake Moultrie was sold. But the trees with no resale value were burned to the stumps. Lake Marion, interrupted by World War II, was left with thousands

of stumps, dead trees, and live cypress trees, all providing habitat for crappie, bass, bream and catfish.

When the Santee River dam was finished, striped bass that had come up from the sea to spawn got trapped in the lakes. Remarkably, they adapted to the freshwater.

“Striper fishery has made a tremendous comeback. This is the first place they were landlocked in fresh water and they’ve been successfully reproducing in the water ever since,” said Kevin Davis.

Davis has owned Black’s Camp with his wife Hazel Lee for about 20 years, although the camp has been here since the 1950s.

“We mostly rely on out-of-town business. From the average person to multi-millionaires, we see all kinds of people





Andrew Marchbanks struggles to lift the 60-pound catfish out of a live well before weigh-in.

coming out here to fish. They come from all over the place, from California, to Maine to Florida,” said Davis.

When we talked with him, he was gearing up for the Cabela’s King Kat Tournament. This group travels across the East Coast for a chance at \$120,000 in cash and prizes. The tournament trail kicked off at Black’s Camp in February and stops at 17 other cities before the championships in Alabama in November.

It was a rainy, windy day for this year’s tournament in Cross. Longtime tournament partners Ronnie Hughes from North Carolina and Johnny Jones from Virginia claimed the top spot. They only weighed in four fish, but their bag included the Big Kat of the tournament and a total weight that claimed the Santee Cooper title.

“We drifted for a solid three hours from 10-feet of water all the way across,” said Hughes. “The wind was really bad at first. We were just letting it push us along a channel where we caught our first fish about 1:30 p.m. By 2 p.m., we had only caught a couple more smaller ones and were talking about packing it in. We decided to fish a little longer, but at that point, we were not even going to come to the weigh-in.”

“Then about 2:30 a rod just slammed down,” said an excited Hughes. “It buried it. It went down so hard it spun the Driftmaster Rod Holder around. It was the big fish and he took off snatching drag off the reel and turned the boat around to where the drift sock was in the motor. He was about 100 feet out to start with and I worked him up

to the boat and straight up and down. It was like I couldn’t even move him. Man, golly. I’m still shaking.”

That big fish weighed 76.86 pounds and lifted Hughes and Jones to a winning weight of 119.90 pounds with only four fish.

“The first tournament of the year for King Kat proved once again what a big fish destination Santee Cooper is,” said Jeremy Coe, tournament director.

The Santee Cooper Lakes hold the world record for channel catfish at 58 pounds and shellcraker at 5 pounds, 7 ounces. And they hold the state records for blue catfish at just more than 109 pounds, flathead catfish at 79 pounds, and largemouth bass at 16 pounds 4 ounces.

“The thing about these lakes, there’s something always biting,” Davis said.

The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism stated that Santee Cooper Country, the marketing organization for the lakes and the five counties surrounding them, brought \$433.63 million in tourism in 2017, totaling 3,620 jobs with an annual payroll of \$72.3 million. State and local taxes equaled \$44.18 million.

Davis hopes to expand Black’s Camp and has applied for a new lease.

“As a commercial leaseholder, Santee Cooper has always worked with us at Black’s Camp. They’re a really good business partner.”

And Black’s should see some good business this spring.

“We’ve had a lot of winter rains, which makes for good spawns,” Davis said.

“If you have about three weeks with warmer temperatures, it will really turn and get really good. It makes the fish a lot easier target. And, they’re a lot easier when they spawn anyway because they’ll eat anything off their beds to protect it,” said Stack.

As Stack and his club members pull up off the water, they gather their bags, fill them with lake water and put their five biggest fish in them. They take turns dropping their fish on the scale as another club member writes down each weight. The guys tell their fishing stories as they wait for the results. There’s money to be made for biggest fish, second biggest fish, and first, second, and third place for the weight of all five. Lately, that weight has been 20 to 30 pounds. That’s a good size for bass.

Allan held his own among those guys who get to fish all day, coming in second place.

It’s been a good day on the lake. Now, they’re already talking about when and where they’ll be able to compete again.



*By Caroline Riggs,
Corporate Communications
Summer Intern*



HELPING POWER SOUTH CAROLINA

Kendrick Mitchum loves that each day at work is never the same.

It was just 7 years ago when Kendrick Mitchum found his passion at Santee Cooper. That's when he became an equipment operator II at Winyah Generating Station. In that role, Mitchum aides in the coal transportation process between the coal piles and the units that generate electricity.

"We assist the unit operators with getting coal to the unit. We provide them with manpower, and we monitor the conveyor belts that are running coal to the units," Mitchum said.

When he began at Santee Cooper, Mitchum said it was the unique experience and family dynamic that helped draw him in, but ultimately what sealed the deal was the ability to do something different everyday.

"You will never be doing the same thing, from operating heavy equipment to being on the ground doing landscaping," Mitchum said.

Everybody at Santee Cooper plays a specific role in powering South Carolina, but equipment operators have a unique job, according to Mitchum. They play a large part in transporting the coal that helps to power the state.

At the end of the day, Mitchum said the knowledge he has obtained from Santee Cooper is universally beneficial and will stick with him.

"What I've learned here can always be used on the outside. If someone's in a field using a tractor or other equipment, I now have all of that knowledge and I'd be familiar with using it," Mitchum said.

FAMILY INSPIRES WHEREVER YOU GO

Family is where BJ Pruitt looks for inspiration, whether it's at Santee Cooper or at home.

BJ Pruitt was never interested in an office job. She'd much rather be in the field and on her feet. Now as an engineering associate, she's working hard to be the link between the generation stations and corporate office.

She said that both Santee Cooper and her family inspire her to keep moving forward every day.

Pruitt started out in the field as a mechanic for Jefferies Generating Station 23 years ago before she moved to Santee Cooper's Corporate Headquarters. In her role at headquarters, Pruitt said she loves the ability to move from generating station to the office and be a supporter of both sectors.

"I get to do administrative tasks, and I also get to go out to the generating stations to support

maintenance. One of these duties is during outage season. I provide an outage update to management and get to take photos of all of the major projects going on. So, I kind of get the best of both worlds," Pruitt said.

Family comes in many different forms and Pruitt said that Santee Cooper is a part of her family. Santee Cooper and her family at home help her stay passionate in her work.

"I'm not sure if family led me to Santee Cooper, but supporting my family and then that additional family environment at Santee Cooper is definitely inspiring," Pruitt said.

If there's one thing that Pruitt has learned from her time at Santee Cooper, she said it's that family truly is everything, no matter where you find it.



Coal Ash Milestone: Last Truckload of Stored Pond Ash Hauled from Grainger

On May 6, 2019, Santee Cooper hauled the last load of coal ash that was stored in ash ponds at the former Grainger Generating Station. Santee Cooper continues to remove any remaining ash from dikes that surrounded the ponds and expects that to conclude within a few months.

“This is a major milestone in ash removal at Grainger and in South Carolina, and it is something we’ve been working diligently toward achieving,” said Pamela Williams, senior vice president and CFO.

Santee Cooper started excavating the ash ponds in 2014 and was about 87 percent complete when Hurricane Florence came through the area in October 2018. Ash Pond 2 still contained about 200,000 tons, and the utility had to pause work on the ash excavation to secure the pond from flood risks.

Since Hurricane Florence, Santee Cooper has expedited ash removal at Grainger. As part of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control-approved pond closure plan, Santee Cooper must also remove one additional foot of soil in the ponds and have it tested in order for the ponds to be deemed clean.

The majority of the ash is being beneficially reused by the cement industry.

Happy Birthday, Old Santee Canal Park

Old Santee Canal Park is celebrating its 30th year of showcasing nature’s flora and fauna against the historical backdrop of America’s first true canal. The year-long celebration includes special events, video messages from park fans, monthly lists of facts and challenges for visitors, a birthday celebration and more. You can find all the fun by following Old Santee Canal Park on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and at SanteeCooperTV on YouTube.

Santee Cooper Signs Up More Solar

Santee Cooper and North Carolina Renewable Energy LLC (NCRE) announced a purchase power agreement that adds 75 megawatts (MW) of renewable solar power to Santee Cooper’s generation mix.

The 75-MW Centerfield Cooper Solar Farm will sit on approximately 800 acres in Chesterfield, South Carolina, and is being developed by NCRE. Construction is expected to begin in August 2019 and begin producing electricity in May 2020.

In addition, more than 4,400 solar panels near Orangeburg, South Carolina, are soaking up the sun and producing electricity at Santee Cooper's new Jamison Solar Farm, built in partnership with Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

"Renewable generation is part of our long-term commitment to environmental stewardship," said Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Marc Tye. "As we've said, we are committed to new renewable energy projects that make sense for our customers. These are perfect examples of that."

Jamison, like a number of other Santee Cooper renewable energy projects, was built in part by using Green Power funds. When customers from Santee Cooper and the state's electric cooperatives voluntarily purchase Green Power, we invest that revenue into new or expanded sources of renewable energy.

Santee Cooper currently has 254 MW of renewable energy online or under contract.

Santee Cooper Lineworkers' Rodeo a Success

In April, Santee Cooper hosted its 22nd annual Lineworkers' Rodeo at Old Santee Canal Park in Moncks Corner. Designed to showcase lineworkers' skills and talent in a fun and safe environment, the rodeo also builds camaraderie among the lineworkers and strengthen their knowledge and ability in the areas of safety, teamwork and productivity.

The rodeo included an apprentice division for line technicians who have been in the business for fewer than two years and a journeyman division, both with multiple competitive events. Find out who the winners are at www.santecooper.com/rodeo.

Summer Operating Hours for Pinopolis Lock

The Pinopolis Lock at the Jefferies Hydroelectric Station on Lake Moultrie will be operated from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (or 30 minutes before sunset, whichever is earlier) this summer.

The lock does not operate during thunderstorms or rough-water conditions. Occasionally, it is necessary to take the lock out of service for periodic maintenance or repair. If you have a large party of boats you are encouraged to call in advance. The telephone number is 843-899-LOCK (5625).

Exeter Purchases 77 Acres at Camp Hall Commerce Park

Santee Cooper closed on a sale with Exeter Property Group for the purchase of a 77-acre tract of land, 75 acres of which are developable, at Camp Hall Commerce Park. Exeter completed the permitting process and plans to build a logistics park with three speculative buildings totaling approximately 945,000 square feet of ready-to-lease industrial space for bulk warehouse and distribution.

“We are excited to welcome Exeter, a first-class developer, to Camp Hall. This sale marks a major milestone at Camp Hall since Volvo Car USA launched their new auto manufacturing plant last summer,” said Pamela Williams, Santee Cooper senior vice president and CFO.

Hall could ultimately house more than 10,000 jobs. The remaining available tracts range in size from 13 to 607 acres.

Along with Santee Cooper, Camp Hall reflects the vision and hard work of many organizations, including the Department of Commerce, South Carolina Power Team, Berkeley County, Berkeley and Edisto electric cooperatives, Palmetto Railways, readySC, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, the South Carolina Ports Authority, the state’s environmental advocacy community and the Charleston Regional Development Alliance.

Santee Cooper Extends Statewide Economic Development Grant Program

The Santee Cooper Board of Directors approved an extension through 2020 of our successful site readiness grant programs for electric cooperatives, other wholesale customers and direct retail customers. The Board also approved a new closing fund for municipal wholesale and direct retail customers.

Working with the South Carolina Power Team, Santee Cooper established the site readiness grant program funds in 2014 to help produce market-ready sites that would increase South Carolina’s ability to recruit and retain industry. Since 2014, the wholesale grant funds have supported projects with capital investment totaling \$565.8 million and 2,290 jobs.

A combined \$8.5 million a year in grants will be available to eligible projects through the Power Team Site Readiness Fund (which will be funded in part by the electric cooperatives), the Municipal Site Readiness Fund and the new closing fund for Santee Cooper’s retail and wholesale municipal service customers.

Santee Cooper’s site readiness grants are supported by the South Carolina Department of Commerce and the South Carolina Power Team and complement those organizations’ statewide economic development efforts as well.

Santee Cooper Advances Economic Development in Marion and Cherokee Counties

Santee Cooper loaned \$1.5 million to the Marion County Development Commission that will be used toward the construction of a speculative building at the Marion County Industrial Park.

Work on the 101,522 square-foot structure began late last year at the 495-acre park. The Santee Cooper loan joins five other funding sources for the building.

Santee Cooper also provided the Gaffney Board of Public Works (GBPW) a \$632,500 grant to help fund infrastructure needs at the Gaffney Industrial Park, a planned 339-acre site in Cherokee County.

The grant, from Santee Cooper's Municipal Site Readiness Fund, will help provide sewer service for the park. GBPW will provide the remaining \$632,500 of the sewer cost.

GBPW is a member of the Piedmont Municipal Power Agency (PMPA), a joint action agency of 10 municipally owned electric utilities based in Greer. Santee Cooper provides PMPA and the 10 cities supplemental power.

Plaid Jackets and Green Power: The Tradition Continues

For 11 years, the RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing has teamed up with Palmetto Electric Cooperative and Santee Cooper to power the state's largest sporting event with 100 percent homegrown, environmentally sound Green Power.

RBC Heritage used Green Power, delivered by Palmetto Electric and generated by Santee Cooper, for the 2019 tournament, which played April 15-21 at Harbour Town Golf Links on Hilton Head Island.

"The RBC Heritage is a big event for our state and using Green Power for the tournament is a big win for our state, too," said Palmetto Electric President and CEO Berl Davis. "Along with Santee Cooper, Palmetto Electric has worked with tournament organizers to offset the power used at the event with certified Green Power, generated from renewable resources."



santee cooper®



LIGHTS OUT!

SEA TURTLES DIG THE DARK.

Help protect our Sea Turtles during
nesting season from May 1 to Oct. 31!

- > **Turn out beachfront lights after dusk.**
- > **Fill in holes and remove beach chairs, tents and sports equipment when leaving the beach.**
- > **Don't disturb nesting females or hatchlings by using flashlights, lanterns or flash photography at night.**

Keep clear of all turtle nests and report them to
SCUTE at 843-237-9821.

www.santecooper.com